

4th March 1965]

அதைப் பரிசீலனை செய்து நியாயம் என்று பட்டால், நிவர்த்தி கிடைக்கலாம். அதற்குப் பின்னால் சர்க்காரின் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டு வரலாம்.

கனம் சபாநாயகர் : கேள்விகள் முடிவடைந்தன.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT.

EXPUNCTION OF OBJECTIONABLE MATTER.

MR. SPEAKER: In the last sitting, the hon. Member, Sri Kalyanasundaram, raised a point of order that the hon. Member, Sri Krishnamoorthy, in the course of his speech during the debate on the Governor's Address said something personally against him. The hon. Member, Sri Mathialagan, also raised a point of order that in the course of his speech, the Hon. the Chief Minister mentioned something derogatory to his Party and its Members. I also said with reference to the hon. Member, Sri Mathialagan, that he mentioned something which was not good. I went through all the relevant proceedings and I have expunged all those portions which I thought were not good including my questions. Therefore, I think, I can set that matter at rest and we need not probe into it further.

III.—PROPRIETY OF MAKING COMMENTS TO THE PRESS ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

MR. SPEAKER: Another point raised by the Hon. the Chief Minister in the last sitting with reference to the comments made by the Leaders of Opposition Parties to the Press on the Governor's Address on 18th January 1965, was whether it was proper for the Leaders of Opposition Parties to make such statements to the Press soon after the Address, as they had an opportunity to express their opinions thereon in the House on the next and subsequent days in the course of the discussion on the 'Motion of Thanks'. He stated that he did not raise it as a matter of privilege, but only as a matter of parliamentary etiquette and convention. The Speaker reserved his decision thereon.

What the Speech from the Throne is to the Houses of Parliament in England, the President's and Governor's Addresses are to the Indian Parliament and Houses of Legislature in India. In England, the Houses re-assemble invariably on the same day soon after the speech from the Throne and commence the discussion on the "Humble Address" to be presented to the Sovereign in reply to the "Gracious Speech". There is, thus, not much interval of time for the Leaders of the Parties to make statements to the Press by way of comments on the "Speech from the Throne". This is the practice that obtains in the Houses of Parliament in India also. Even so, there have been cases in which such statements have been made to the Press before the discussion in the House is started—One such recent instance

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being the statements to the Press made on the Queen's Speech to the Houses of Parliament in England in November 1964. But, such statements in England have been made in the name of parties and not in the name of Leaders of parties.

In the Madras Legislative Assembly, on the 6th December 1954, the then Leader of the House raised a similar question and observed that, on the ground of propriety, though not on the ground of breach of privilege, it was not desirable to rush to the Press and make known to the public the views of the Leaders of Parties on the Governor's Address. An hon. Member then pointed out that Mr. Atlee gave his opinion on the Address of the Queen even before the discussion took place on the floor of the Parliament of England. The then Speaker ruled that this practice was not a breach of privilege.

From the above, it follows that this is a matter of convention and propriety which should be followed by Leaders of Parties or the Hon. the Leader of the House or for that matter anybody. Therefore, if any convention is to be evolved in respect of this matter, leaders of all parties may sit and evolve it. I leave it there.

IV.—PRIVILEGE MATTERS.

(1) STATEMENT TO THE PRESS BY LEADERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES.

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, the Hon. the Leader of the House raised a matter of privilege in regard to the statement issued to the Press by the Leaders of the Opposition parties . . .

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: On a point of order, Sir. If it is with reference to the privilege matter raised by the Hon. the Chief Minister, I would request the Chair to refer to Rule 188 before he gives a ruling. The rule says—

‘When a member has with the consent of the Speaker raised a matter of privilege, the Speaker shall read the matter to the House and decide whether a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege has been made out or not therein.’

So, I request the Chair to kindly read that matter given in writing by the Hon. the Chief Minister first and then decide whether there is a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege or not.

MR. SPEAKER: I am quite aware of it. Yesterday I read it.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: No, Sir, it was not read yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member wants, I shall read it and it contains only a few lines. It is as follows:—

‘I would like to draw your kind attention to the statement issued to the Press by the Leaders of the Opposition which has been published in ‘The Mail’ of yesterday and ‘Hindu’ and